79. Needs of Nanjinad.

MR. R. BHAGAVATHI PERUMAL CHETTIAR (*Trading Classes, Kottar*) who made his representation in Tamil, spoke about the needs of Nanjinad.

At the outset he expressed his deep sense of gratitude to the Government for all that they had done to the people.

Speaking about the subject matter of his representation, he said that Kottar was famous for its trade from ancient times and had existed even before the birth of Christ, according to tradition. It was only next to the Capital of the State, in its importance and it therefore behoved the Government to look to the health of the people and the education of the children of the town. There was a cremation ground and a fish market near Kottar bazaar which were causing great inconvenience to the people that congregated in the town as also to the inhabitants of the town. The Nagercoil Municipal Council had passed a resolution on this subject and had recommended to the Government to remove these to a less congested locality. But as yet nothing had been done. The member therefore requested that the fish market and the cremation ground be removed to a place outside the town limits.

As regards education, the member said it was quite true that a new school building was constructed for the Kottar High School. But was the benefit accruing to the pupils commensurate with the heavy cost of the building? It was, after all, only the old High School that had been transferred to the new building. The member expressed the view that, if the school was raised to a first grade College, it would be of great use to the children of Nanjinad and accordingly requested the Government to do what was necessary in the matter. It would be advantageous also to have a Middle School in the old school building of the Kottar High School, since many of the pupils of the lower classes found it difficult to go to Nagercoil for their studies. If the establishment of a Middle School was not found to be feasible, the member requested that atleast the building might be handed over to some private agency at Kottar or Nagercoil which, he was sure, would be willing to come forward to conduct a school.

The member next suggested that the amounts deposited with the Imperial Bank of India and the deposits in the various treasuries might with advantage be lent on good security to the bankers and traders of the State. The deposit with the Imperial Bank at present went to enrich the foreigner, while the local merchants and the traders were being put to great hardship. If his proposal was accepted and acted upon, it would, while being of immense benefit to the traders, also in no small measure relieve unemployment which is rife in the country. If the proposal was not acceptable, the member, as an alternative, suggested the establishment of a branch of the State-Aided Bank at Nagercoil.

Speaking about the weights and measures, the member referred to the practice obtaining in British India where weights and measures had been standardised and any infringement of the rules entailed upon the offender heavy punishment. The member was of opinion that the

practice prevailing in British India might be followed in Travancore also where traders as well as customers underwent untold hardship on account of the lack of uniformity of weights and measures. Further, the officers entrusted with the duty of supervising weights and measures did not discharge their duties satisfactorily.

The next point about which the member represented was the extension of the Alathurayar as far as Myladi He traced the history of the Kodayar Project and said that the Alathurayar scheme was not proceeded with even though a sum of about Rs. 2 lakhs had been spent on it. The member also narrated some of the difficulties which the ryots underwent in Nanjinad. The lands of Nanjinad were being cultivated now for over a thousand years and all the manure available in the land had been used up, thus rendering it unfit for cultivation. There was also the belief, rightly or wrongly entertained by many of the people of North Travancore, that since a large amount of money had been spent on the Kodayar Project, no further amounts should be spent on Nanjinad. The member observed that, even in spite of difficulties, the ryots of Nanjinad cultivated their lands and that the prosperity of the whole State depended upon the prosperity of the ryots of Nanjinad. Mr. Horsely, Chief Engineer, had expressed the opinion that the Kodayar Project alone was not sufficient for the whole of Nanjinad and he suggested the construction of some minor reservoirs. One of these was the Alathurayar Reservoir. If a dam were constructed near Thadikarankonam at a small cost, the water of the Alathurayar can be used for irrigation purposes and can be taken as far as Cape Comorin by the aid of the Tovala Channel.

Finally the member spoke about the drain near the Tobacco Bank-shall. He said that this drain was causing great inconvenience to the public and the inhabitants of the town. The cause of the stench emanating from this drain was that the channel which had been constructed some distance away, was constructed at a height of 50 ft. above the ground level and that the water of the springs was carried to this drain. This added to the dirt, caused the bad smell. The member suggested the construction of a side canal along the channel to take this water of springs into the Pazhayar and also suggested the removal of the drain. The Municipal Council had agreed with the views expressed by the member but thought that this was not a matter in which they could take action by themselves. Government had to undertake the work and the member therefore exhorted the Government to issue orders to the P. W. D. to do what was possible.

DEWAN'S REPLY: இந்த டிறைனை (drain) மாற்றவேண்டியது என்ற விஷயத்தைப்பற்றி இன்ஜினீயர் முனிஸிபாலிடி இவர்களுடன் ஆலோசித்ததில், அவர்கள் அதைமாற்றவேண்டியதில்லை என்று சொல்லியிருக்கிறார்கள்.

மீன் (fish) மார்க்கெட்டை மாற்றவேண்டுமென்று சொன்னீர்கள். இந்த fish மார்க்கெட்டுக்காக கூடுதல் ஸ்தலம் எடுத்து, இதை அதிலே

மே கொஞ்சம் தள்ளிவைக்க, அதற்காக ஏற்பாடு செய்துவரப்படுகி றது. இதைப்பற்றி முனிஸிபாலிடி கவர்மெண்டுடன் கரஸ்பாண்டென்ஸ் நடத்திவருகிறார்கள். கவர்மெண்டும் ஆவசியம்போல் செய்வார்கள். நீங்கள் சொன்ன பாக்கி சமாசாரங்களை கவர்மெண்டு ஆலோசிப்பார்கள்.

[In regard to the diversion of the drain, the Chief Engineer and the Municipality to whom the subject was referred are of the opinion that there is no need for doing so.

You said that the fish market should be removed from its present site. Steps are being taken to acquire some more land for the market and to shift it a little on that site itself. The Municipality is considering the question. The Municipality is carrying on correspondence with the Government on the subject. The Government will do the needful in the matter. The Government will consider the rest of your representations.]

80. Municipal Needs of Nagercoil.

Mr. P. KOLAPPA PILLAI (*Municipal Council, Nagercoil*) first spoke about the importance of a water supply scheme for the Nagercoil town, especially in view of the increasing population and the consequent congestion in the town and the frequent outbreak of such epidemics as cholera and typhoid, on account of lack of good drinking water. The subject was one which had engaged the attention of the Government and the Municipal Council for the past few years. To a representation on the subject at the last session of the Assembly, Government said that the question could be taken up only after the completion of the Trivandrum Water Supply Scheme. But what was required was not the immediate carrying out of the scheme, but only the preparation of a feasible scheme of water supply to be carried out later on. It was not necessary that that should wait till the completion of the Trivandrum Water Works. The Municipality had formulated some proposals for the supply of water to the town on a smaller scale. In case there was any delay in putting into operation the scheme on a large scale, at least the Municipality's present proposals should be given effect to and the Government should render some financial help towards it.

The member next referred to the question of financing the Maternity and Child Welfare centre, by the Government. The institution was opened two years back and was doing very useful work. But the financial condition of the Municipal Council did not permit of any substantial help from the Council towards the proper maintenance of the institution. Further, it was not one of the obligatory functions of the Municipality. Hence the Government should sanction a liberal grant towards the recurring expenditure on the institution. The Municipality had recently requested that the local civil jail building